

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143298

FOLLOWING REPEAT STOCKHOLM 2464 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
COPENHAGEN HELSINKI GENEVA OSLA REYKJAVIK 12 JUNE 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2464

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS, SW

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: STATE 119953

SUMMARY: SWEDISH DELEGATION HEAD FOR EXPERTS MEETING OF
SUBJECT CONFERENCE (BLIX) TOLD EMBOFF THAT SWEDEN WILL
ABSTAIN ON MAIL TALLY RE PRG SEATING. BUT IT MAY SEND
DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS REPLY TO ICRC WHICH WILL ALLOW,
IF ENOUGH OTHER COUNTRIES DO SAME, SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE
SOLUTION. NORDICS SO FAR NOT AGREED ON REPLY TO ICRC
NOTE. BLIX SUGGESTS NAMES FOR PRESIDUM. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED EXPERTS CONFERENCE WITH MFA LEGAL
ADVISOR (AND DELEGATION HEAD TO ICRC CONFERENCE) HANS
BLIX AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. HE HAD JUST COMPLETED
DRAFTING POSITION PAPER ON PRG ATTENDANCE ISSUE, WHICH
NOW MUST BE APPROVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER.

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2. BLIX GIVES MINISTER THREE ALTERNATIVES: A) SEND NO

REPLY TO ICRC NOTE; B) SEND REPLY WITH RATHER CONVULATED LANGUAGE THAT WOULD SAY SWEDEN FELT BOUND BY DECISION OF RECENT GENEVA CONFERENCE RE PARTICIPATION IN EXPERTS CONFERENCE, BUT FOR ITS PART SWEDEN HAS NO OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATION OF PRG; C) SEND REPLY WHICH ICRC MUST COUNT AS AN ABSTENTION. BLIX IS RECOMMENDING OPTION C BUT WILL TELL US WHAT FORNMIN DECIDES.

3. EMBOFF ASKED BLIX WHAT OPTION B MEANT, AS HE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT MINISTER MIGHT DECIDE ON IT. BLIX SAID THAT IT WAS A DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS ANSWER, WHICH THE ICRC COULD INTERPRET ANY WAY IT CHOSE. IF THE ICRC TOOK IT FOR A "NO" VOTE IN THE TALLY, SWEDEN COULD LATER CLAIM IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN ABSTENTION. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, SWEDEN HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ABSTAIN AS IT ALWAYS DOES ON THESE REPRESENTATION ISSUES.

4. BLIX SAID NORDIC CONSULTATION ON ISSUE LAST WEEK FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT. AT LAST RECKONING FINLAND HAS DECIDED NOT TO ANSWER ICRC NOTE, DENMARK IS INCLINED TO VOTE "NO" (I.E. AGAINST PRG PARTICIPATION), AND NORWAY WILL FOLLOW SWEDEN'S LEAD, I.E. SEND ABSTENTION REPLY. HOWEVER, NORDIC SOLIDARITY MIGHT PREVAIL IN END.

5. EMBOFF THEN REHEARSED ARGUMENTS IN STATE 112467. BLIX HAD COPY OF OUR REPLY TO ICRC NOTE, SENT FROM GENEVA, AND WAS FAMILIAR WITH ARGUMENTS (WE HAVE BEEN OVER GROUND WITH BLIX MANY TIMES). THE ONLY ARGUMENT, AS NOTED REFTEL, WHICH IMPRESSED HIM WAS LIKELIHOOD OF USG WITHDRAWING FROM EXPERTS CONFERENCE, AND HE ADMITTED USG PARTICIPATION OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN PRG PARTICIPATION, BUT HE HOPED THAT SUCH A CHOICE WILL NOT HAVE TO BE MADE. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT PRG COULD BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE, BUT UNDER SOME KIND OF NEBULOUS PHRASING THAT WOULD NOT MAKE IT AS EXPERTS REPRESENTING A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT ICRC IS ASKING FOR A YES/NO VOTE AND THAT PRG AND ITS FRIENDS ARE NOT SEEKING ADMISSION AS LIBERATION MOVEMENT BUT RATHER AS SOVERIGN GOVERNMENT. BLIX SAID THIS COULD BE WORKED

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OUT IF ENOUGH COUNTRIES, LIKE SWEDEN, SENT IN DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS ANSWERS, THUS ALLOWING ICRC TO INVENT PHRASE- OLOGY FOR PARTICIPATION THAT MIGHT SATISFY USG. BLIX SUG- GESTED THAT USG MIGHT CONSIDER THIS ALTERNATIVE AS A FALLBACK POSITION, RATHER THAN PULLING OUT OF CONFERENCE. EMBOFF REMINDED HIM WE ARE ON PUBLIC RECORD TO "RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO PARTICIPATE" IF PRG PARTICIPATES.

6. BLIX SAID HE HAD NO INSIDE WORD ON WHY ICRC HAD RE-OPENED PARTICIPATION ISSUE, BUT HE GUESSED IT IS BECAUSE EASTER BLOC THREATENED TO BRING ISSUE OUT AT EXPERTS MEETING. BLIX ADMITTED THAT ICRC ACTION WAS PECULIAR FROM A LEGAL STANDPOINT, BUT SAID "WE ARE ALWAYS HAVING TO INVENT RULES."

7. BLIX SUGGESTED FOLWING NAMES FOR PRESIDUM OF SEPTEMBER EXPERTS CONFERENCE: KUSBACH (AUSTRIA); BEEBE (NEW ZEALAND); DANIEL MILLER (CANADA). FOR TOP SPOT HIS PREFERRED CHOICES ARE QUENTIN BAXTER (NEW ZEALAND) OR GONZALES GAIVES (MEXICO). STRAUZ-HUPE

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